

Soybean Cyst Nematode Analysis



Highlights

- Once infested, SCN is impossible to eliminate
- SCN can cause yield loss even before soybean crop appears damaged
- Test for SCN in the fall, as close to harvest as possible

The soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is one of the most important pests of soybeans in the United States. SCN now occurs in all major soybean producing areas and can be responsible for sizable yield loss across these areas if not identified and managed.

Damage from SCN is not limited to yield loss from root feeding. The damage caused by SCN also aids in the development of other root and stem diseases which can contribute to even greater yield loss. It is possible to have a yield loss of 30 percent or more without the soybean crop looking noticeably damaged during the growing season. Therefore, it is important to sample for SCN periodically to confirm its presence in each field and help determine management strategies once SCN has been identified.

Once SCN is established in a field it cannot be eradicated. Therefore, managing SCN is extremely important. This can be difficult since no single management tactic will control SCN, but utilizing several management strategies can help minimize yield loss.



Sampling Procedures

Samples can be taken anytime during the year, however it makes the most sense to sample fields for SCN in the fall, just prior to harvest.

- To effectively check fields for presence of SCN, soil must be collected from no more than a 20 acre section, collecting a composite sample of ten to 20 soil cores.
- Higher risk areas, where SCN may first appear, could include the following:
 - Areas near a field driveway
 - Along fence lines
 - In low areas that may have flooded
 - Areas of the field where soil pH is above 7.0
- Mix the soil cores very well and place in a soil bag.
- Keep the samples at room temperature or cooler and out of sunlight until they can be shipped to an AgSource Laboratories location.

The results will be shown as eggs or cysts per 100cc of soil. AgSource offers both cyst and egg counts.

Resources

Soybean Cyst Nematode Management Guide 5th edition https://fyi.uwex.edu/fieldcroppathology/soybean_pests_diseases/scnguide_5thedition/

<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/nematology/soybeannems.html>

<https://www.apsnet.org/edcenter/intropp/lessons/Nematodes/Pages/SoyCystNema.aspx>

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